

Park and Shop Shopping Center
3507-3523 Connecticut Ave. N.W. between
Ordway and Porter Streets, N.W.
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-548

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PARK AND SHOP SHOPPING CENTER

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Location: 3507-3523 Connecticut Avenue N.W. between Ordway and Porter Streets, N.W., Washington, District of Columbia

Significance: Among the first automobile-oriented shopping complexes built within the District of Columbia, Park and Shop Shopping Center incorporated then-novel features designed to reduce traffic congestion. It received coverage in national architectural periodicals at the time as a model example of its type.

History: Washington architect Arthur B. Heaton designed the Park and Shop Shopping Center for Shannon and Luchs Realty Company in 1930. The complex originally contained ten retail units and off-street parking for 44 automobiles. Aimed at the affluent patronage of the surrounding neighborhoods and automobile commuters heading north from downtown Washington, the products available at the stores ranged from items such as groceries and hardware, to services such as a beauty parlor. In 1932 a gasoline-filling station and car wash--then dubbed an "auto laundry"-- were added to the southern end of the complex. These have since been demolished.

During the mid-1980s, due to the complex's location directly next to a subway stop and on a major city thoroughfare, the current owner proposed to demolish the complex to replace it with a much larger office structure. Neighbors interested in the preservation of historic structures protested and attempted to halt the razing of what they represented as an integral part of Cleveland Park and the then-proposed surrounding Cleveland Park Historic District. (The Cleveland Park Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in March, 1987.)

Sources: The following is a selected bibliography based primarily on materials furnished by Dr. Richard Longstreth, Director of the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation, American Studies Department, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

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Note: The Arthur B. Heaton collection at the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress contains the architect's plans, working drawings, and preliminary schemes for the Park and Shop Shopping Center.

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